

[Sh. Lal Babu Rai]

need for constructing a Railway bridge in Digha Pahlejghat, Bihar. This would link north Bihar and South Bihar through Railways. There is a long standing demand for the construction of a railway bridge on river Ganga at Digha Phalejghat, Patna, Bihar. But till today the bridge has not been constructed. Railway has its land on both sides of the river and there also exists a railway line there. Since there is no railway link between south Bihar and north Bihar, transportation of coal and other such things is very costly and a lot of difficulty is also experienced in their transportation.

I would, therefore, urge the Government to make arrangements for the construction of a railway bridge on Ganga at Digha Pahlejghat in Patna in the public interest.

[English]

(v) Need to fix statutory minimum price for sugarcane at Rs. 39 per quintal

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vajayawada): Sir, the Union Government has recently announced the revised statutory minimum price for sugarcane for the current season as Rs. 31/- per quintal at 8.5 per cent recovery. The Government has also enhanced the issue price of sugar from Rs. 6.90 to Rs. 8.30 per kg. It has also made change by reducing the quantity of levy sugar from 45 to 40 bags. The sugar factory managements will be getting additional profit by way of Bhargava formula as they are permitted to sell 60 bags in the free sale market as against only 35 bags as at the inception of this additional price sharing Bhargava formula. The costs of inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides, diesel, electricity charges, water rates, harvesting and transport charges have all increased enormously during the last year. I, therefore request the Government to fix Rs. 39/- per

quintal statutory minimum price for sugarcane at 8.5 per cent recovery to meet the increased cost of its cultivation and pass on 70 percent of the additional profit earned by the sugar factories to the cane growers share instead of 50 percent allowed at present.

(vi) Need to provide adequate funds to Madhya Pradesh Government for early completion of underground drainage scheme at Jabalpur

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL (Jabalpur): Sir, open drains in Jabalpur, which is a developing town with a population around 1.2 million and with several Central Undertakings including ordinance factories, Universities, a seat of the High Court and big business and industrial centres are a matter of serious concern from the point of view of sanitation. Jabalpur continues to suffer from perennial onslaughts of diseases like malaria, diarrhoea and cholera.

The problem of sanitation in the drainage system in Jabalpur continues to hang fire. It is understood that the Government have sanctioned an underground drainage scheme for the city, estimated to cost around Rs. 77 to 78 crores a few years back. It might escalate to well above Rs. 100 crores, even if it is taken up for implementation at the earliest. Despite this sanction, the scheme remains on paper for want of funds, which the State Government is expected to raise.

While the need for providing proper underground drainage to Jabalpur cannot be over-emphasized, it might be difficult for the State Government to find resources for funding the same, even though it is presently under Central Rule. In the circumstances, I would urge on the Central Government either to fund the project through Central grants or take up the issue for funding it with the World Bank assistance.